



The Role of Lanterman Housing Alliance in Fostering the Provision of Housing Access and Retention Services in Regional Center communities across California

Mission of

L H A

The Lanterman Housing Alliance fosters innovative public policies and public-private partnerships that result in sustainable investment in affordable housing for people with developmental disabilities.



LHA Advocacy for Housing Services

- In FY 2016-2017, LHA urged the Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA) to advocate for the CA DDS application for federal matching funds under the HCBS waiver application to include housing access and housing retention services.
- The application was approved and assigned a funding code 089 in 2018 for both:
 - Housing Access services
 - Housing Retention services

Why the Need for Housing Access Services

- A disaggregated affordable housing marketplace with no single point of entry and different procedures at every property has a disparate impact on people with developmental disabilities.
- The housing marketplace is constantly changing, and requires a dedicated team to monitor and mine for new housing opportunities.
- People with developmental disabilities need to have a housing plan that takes account the role of the family and the need for individualized services.
- People with developmental disabilities need ongoing assistance to maintain wait list status.

Why the Need for Housing Retention Services

- People with developmental disabilities need individual support to understand and comply with typical property manager expectations.
- A housing retention service provider creates a bridge between property management and the social worker at the Regional Center.
- A housing retention service provider offers an additional “safety net” to monitor whether individual ILS or SLS services are effective.



The 089 Opportunity

With California's approval of housing access and retention services for federal matching funds under the HCBS waiver, there is more incentive for Regional Centers to fund housing access and retention services

Theory of Change

Funding of Housing Services under 089 will engage more Regional Centers to become full partners in addressing the multi-family housing needs of California's residents with developmental disabilities

For those Regional Centers who have played little if any role in addressing affordable housing, the funding of a Housing Nonprofit to provide housing services under 089 is an **easy first step** because it is an individually authorized service—what Regional Centers do best.

How Delivery of the 089 Housing Service Fosters Inclusive Housing

Successful service depends on being deeply engaged in the local housing community—the activity itself increases awareness of our community's housing need.

The funded service makes Regional Centers more competitive with other special needs populations for “set-asides” in typical affordable housing.

The funded service creates a database from which to estimate housing need on a consistent, year-over-year basis.

The funded service creates a database from which to build a local housing advocacy strategy.

The funded service provides a single, unifying value proposition among LHA members who otherwise intervene in the housing marketplace in many different ways.

A statewide network of housing service providers creates a stronger foundation for LHA's statewide legislative advocacy.

What would help Regional Centers decide to adopt this service?

- A tailored case statement for each Regional Center
 - Why the service contributes to their mission.
 - Data from their service area to show it is needed
 - Role of Housing Services in reducing ethnic/language disparities in utilization of ILS/SLS.
 - Data/case studies from other RCs to show the impact.
- Sample program designs that have worked for other Regional Centers
- Engagement with a larger community of RC leaders committed to building capacity to address housing.

What information or capacity-building do LHA members need?

- Assessment of housing need in the communities they target
- Assistance in creating a business plan, including projections of caseload growth and how long it will take to break even
- Assistance in building knowledge and relationships with local housing resources
- Best practices in marketing housing services to consumers
- Program designs for both housing access and housing retention
- Job descriptions
- Sample case management documents
- Database design that leads to all Regional Centers

QUESTION FOR DISCUSSION:

How do we educate the affordable housing field about our specialized capacity to provide housing services to create new inclusive housing across California?



Question for Discussion

- Can a robust service delivery system compensate for the lack of a dedicated housing finance program?



Other Questions/Comments?

